

CHILDREN ARE BEING NEGLECTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) to speak about the provision of the welfare bill which takes away the rights for education and training so people can move up and out of the welfare rolls. Other than that, it sounds like some form of regressive slavery.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. That is very much a part of the pattern of contempt I have observed in this bill. We say we want to put Americans to work and off welfare, meaning the mothers of the children. Yet there is a prohibition against higher education in the present law. You cannot go into a junior college or community college to get an associate degree. That is where the jobs are, the technician jobs that pay a decent salary, offer steady and continuous work with fringe benefits, and a health care plan. But no, we will not allow a welfare mother to use, to go into a higher education program.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have been elected for 20 years, 10 years in this House, and in that time period I have seen all kinds of welfare. The bill we passed last year, \$94 billion to the farmers, the percentage of the farmers is 2 percent of the population. I have got to ask the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) because I do not know exactly what percentage will the wealthiest farmers get out the farmers' welfare bill.

Mr. OWENS. If the gentlewoman would continue to yield, it is a safety net program. It was started the same time that Franklin Roosevelt started the Aid to Families with Dependent Children. They were poor farmers at that time, but now a farmer may get as much as \$390,000 per year, and you may participate in the program even if your income is \$2.5 million.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I think the gentlewoman is right, the farm bill was far too generous to too few wealthy big farmers. Actually 2 percent of the people farm, that is correct. And of those who get resources, 20 percent of the farmers get 80 percent of the resources, so the vast majority of the farmers do not get what my colleague thinks.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman would yield, that means that the poor farmers are not getting this safety net benefit for the poor. I think this is relevant because now that we are on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Act, suddenly our colleagues have become frugal. Suddenly they want to become responsible and prove to the public that they are here to protect the treasury. We have already given it away to people who need it the least, and now we are neglecting needy children in our society.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I held up this picture earlier, and this is Rile-ya Wilson has been missing in the State of Florida for 15 months. Now we are talking about super block granting the money to the State where we have no accountability. In Florida, we have close to 800,000 children living below the poverty line. That is 22 percent of all of the children in Florida. The kids in Florida have double jeopardy.

First of all, we have a President that has given away \$500 billion and wants to make it permanent as tax breaks to the richest people in this country, and then we have a governor in the State of Florida that gives the rest of the money away to the businesses. And yet the State of Florida, the average worker that takes care of these kids does not make \$20,000 a year, and they have a roll of between 40 and 100 kids that they have to look after.

The Republicans are very, very good with gimmicks. They have Leave No Child Behind, a slogan they stole from the Children's Defense Fund. What does that mean? This is the time we need to look at leaving no child behind; but are we doing that? No, no. We are talking about we cannot afford to take care of our children, but we can afford to take care of everybody else but the children. They talk a great talk, but they do not walk the walk.

Mr. Speaker, there are two words to describe what's wrong with this welfare bill—Rile-ya Wilson. Right now, there is a 5-year-old child from my State missing somewhere in this country because Congress wants to give full responsibility to underfunded State agencies without any Federal oversight. These super blocks grants allow the States to neglect our children.

Let's look at my State of Florida for an example of what happens when States don't take care of our children. There are over 775,000 children living below the poverty line in Florida—a staggering 22 percent of all children in the State. The welfare rolls have gone down, but, not surprisingly, this number has not improved; 77 percent of our fourth graders' reading skills are not up to speed. And although almost 20 percent of our children do not have any health insurance, Florida had to return over \$30 million in Federal funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program in 1998 because the State did not want to match the money.

It is truly an outrage that we today have to debate how much money to dedicate to helping our weakest and most vulnerable as the President and the Republican leadership wants to permanently extend tax cuts to the richest in our country to the tune of \$500 billion just in this decade and \$4 trillion in the next!

And worse, the children in Florida are doubly penalized because our Governor decided to spend the State's money on wealthy businesses instead of making sure the state can account for all of its children.

Our priorities are all wrong when the average worker at the Department of Children and Families in my State makes less than \$20,000 a year and handles over 70 cases at a time.

It is time that we start to think of the children first. What happened to "Leave no Child

Behind"? The Republicans can come up with lots of catchy slogans, but I've got one for you: Where's the beef? The Republican bill does nothing to improve the state of children in this country. The Republicans want welfare recipients to work 40 hours a week, but where is the money for childcare? This bill does not allow parents to receive education in order to end the cycle of poverty that they find themselves in. They need an education to get a good job to stay off the welfare rolls.

The proof is in the pudding. Don't just talk the talk—walk the walk! Instead of trying to make people all around the country go running to the altar to get married, we need to be making sure that the States are equipped to take care of our children. We cannot have any more tragic cases occur like the one of Rile-ya Wilson.

MUSHARRAF'S FAILURE TO ROOT OUT TERRORISM IN KASHMIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to reiterate once again that President Musharraf of Pakistan is failing to root out terrorism in Kashmir.

This past Tuesday, more than 30 Indian soldiers and members of their families fell victim to a deadly attack in Kashmir at the hands of three Pakistani-based militants.

Mr. Speaker, this type of terrorism is tragic and is exactly the type of terrorist activity that President Musharraf so valiantly claimed he would eliminate. It seems clear that President Musharraf has paid no regard whatsoever to preventing infiltration of Islamic militants into Kashmir.

As a result of the October 1 attack on the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly and the December 13 attack on the Indian parliament last year, Musharraf stated that action would be taken against Islamic militants. He proceeded to outlaw two organizations responsible for terrorism in Kashmir, Jaish e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. He also arrested nearly 2,000 men supposedly linked to terrorists and ordered madrassahs to be closed. This supposed crack down on terrorists and closing of extremist religious schools was a sham. Most of the militants that were arrested are now free and madrassahs continue to recruit and train young boys in Islamic fundamentalism and terrorist activities.

Although Musharraf made claims that he is cracking down on terrorists throughout Pakistan, he has always referred to the Pakistani-based militants in Kashmir as freedom fighters. At the times he has referred to these terrorists, with deep, close connections to groups like al Qaeda and the Taliban, I have tried to highlight that Musharraf is operating under a double standard of siding with the U.S. against terrorism, while allowing terrorism to continue in Kashmir.